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Ethel Hughes

LATER
RELIQUES
OF
OLD LONDON

LITHOGRAPHED BY
T. B. WAY
DESCRIBED BY
H. B. WHEATLEY

April 30, 1902

From C. E. P. W.



Walter L. ...
✓

LATER RELIQUES OF OLD LONDON

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PLATE II

LATER RELIQUES OF OLD LONDON

DRAWN IN LITHOGRAPHY BY

T. R. WAY

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTIONS BY

H. B. WHEATLEY, F.S.A.



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PREFACE.

THE success which attended the volume "Reliques of Old London" has encouraged me to continue the series of drawings commenced in that book. My aim in the "Reliques" was to record, as far as possible, only buildings which had escaped the Great Fire of London, but as I found these too numerous to include in one volume of reasonable size, many, especially in the City and East End, were held over for a second series. Whilst hunting for my subjects I came across many very interesting and beautiful bits of old building, which, though of doubtful date, are certainly very little later than the limit of time I had set for myself. In talking over the book, Mr. Wheatley agreed with me that it would be interesting to include the great foundation school buildings, such as Christ's Hospital—which, alas, is now so soon to disappear—and also that miniature masterpiece, attributed to Sir Christopher Wren, the Westminster Bluecoat School, although in this case the doomed building is to be left standing for twenty-five years, almost buried as it is

by huge flats and artisans' dwellings. Mr. Wheatley was distressed that I should wish to include the old building in Houndsditch, but I have done so, as it is a typical example of a large number of very ancient houses which are fast disappearing, and which I think, even in their extreme simplicity, are not uninteresting. Should this volume obtain as much success as the former one, it is my intention to add another of suburban reliques, and afterwards one of Thames side subjects. I have to thank those friends who have suggested many picturesque subjects, and especially the Rev. R. E. Cope, who took great trouble to point out to me districts on the south side of the river, where interesting buildings were to be found, although, unfortunately, but one proved to be suitable for the present collection.

In this volume all the drawings have been made direct from nature.

T. R. WAY.

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INTRODUCTION

ALTHOUGH year by year, and almost month by month, the relics of the past are swept away from our streets—to be replaced in many instances by buildings regular and characterless—much of antiquity still remains to delight those who are prepared to look for it in out-of-the-way places.

Mr. Way has succeeded in bringing together in this new volume a series of subjects of equal, if not greater, interest than those shown in the first; and as these are, with few exceptions, of buildings of a more modern date than those represented in the earlier series, he has called the present volume “Later Reliques.” The subjects are chosen from all parts of London—several are from the East End, some from the City, and others from Westminster. Mr. Way has found his subjects among the almshouses, the schools, and the Inns of Court, as well as in the streets, and in the great eastern road out of the City.

We are too apt to believe that it has been left for the men and women of the nineteenth century to realize the responsibilities of their position, and to solve the difficulties connected with the poverty and education of the people, but this is not so, and on all sides we are met by

the signs of the intelligent charity of our forefathers. The rich provided for the wants of their own neighbourhood, and supplied houses for the poor, and schools for the unlearned. Altered conditions of life have made changes in these charities necessary, but it is not certain that the changes which have been made have always been for the best.

For instance, lovers of London associations cannot but regret the gradual disappearance of the great schools from the midst of the town. St. Paul's Churchyard is a hallowed spot to all who know the history of London, and although the building on the east side which accommodated St. Paul's School was not of any antiquity, it gave a distinction to a circus of warehouses and shops which is now lost, and reminded the passer-by of the good Dean Colet who founded this noble institution. Now it has disappeared, and is replaced by buildings entirely without architectural character. If, however, the removal of St. Paul's School is a great loss, the clearance of the buildings occupied by Christ's Hospital would be a calamity of a still more serious character. This charming precinct, which has been sacred to religion and charity from early times, ought to be saved from destruction in some way. It is time that public opinion was roused so as to prevent this place from being turned into a district of huge business buildings.

If our forefathers had done their duty with respect to the materials at their disposal, London might have had its University exactly three centuries ago, for the groundwork

was to hand in the munificent bequest of Sir Thomas Gresham, and the Inns of Court might have been joined with Gresham College to form a University of a very definite and distinctive character, but the opportunity was unfortunately allowed to pass.

The two great grammar schools of London and Westminster (St. Paul's and Westminster Schools) were established a little before Gresham planned his college. Not far from St. Paul's School was that of the Charterhouse, which in 1872 was removed to Godalming, when the Merchant Taylors' School took its place, and removed from the old house in Suffolk Lane. Christ's Hospital was founded between the dates of St. Paul's and Westminster Schools.

The old foundation schools of London are very numerous, but it is not necessary to mention them all here, as to do so would merely be to produce a long and uninteresting list. Suffice it to say that each century did its part in the supply of schools for the growing population.

The sixteenth century provided, besides those already mentioned, and some others, the Mercers' School (1542), which is now housed at Barnard's Inn, Holborn, Sir Roger Cholmeley's School at Highgate (1565), and Dame Alice Owen's School in Clerkenwell. The seventeenth century produced Alleyn's School at Dulwich (1619), Latymer's Schools at Hammersmith (1624), Archbishop Tenison's School (1685), the Bluecoat School at Westminster (1688), the Greycoat Hospital, Westminster (1698), and the Haberdashers' School (Aske's Hospital) at Hoxton

(1698). In the eighteenth century the Godolphin School at Hammersmith (1703) and Sir John Cass's Schools at Aldgate (1710) were founded. The later portion of the nineteenth century has been occupied in the consolidation of these schools, and the re-arrangement of their funds, very little consideration being paid to the expressed wishes of the pious founders.

Among the founders of London schools whose names should be mentioned with the highest honour, are Edward VI., Edward Alleyn, Sir John Cass, Sir Roger Cholmeley, Dean Colet, William Godolphin, Lady Holles, Sir John Jolles, Edward Latymer, Dame Alice Owen, Thomas Parmiter, or Parmettier, Thomas Sutton, Archbishop Tenison, and Sir Richard Whittington. Of Dame Owen, widow of Sir Thomas Owen, a Justice of the Common Pleas, a pretty anecdote is told. When a little maid, Alice Williams by name, her hat was pierced by an archer's random shot in the Hermitage Fields, Clerkenwell, without any injury to herself, and as a thank-offering for her escape, she gave in after life some of these fields as an endowment for a hospital for ten poor women and a school for thirty boys.

Almshouses appear to have been a distinctly English institution, and in most of our old towns specimens may be seen. At one time there were a considerable number in the outskirts of London, but of late years this form of charity has gone very much out of favour. In the "Pictorial Handbook of London" (Weale's) a large number of almshouses are registered, counting up to considerably over one hundred, and referring to the great eastern road, con-

sisting of Whitechapel, Mile End, and Bow Roads: the author mentions nine separate endowments in this public thoroughfare which are all within two miles of Aldgate. Nearly all these are now cleared away, some have been rebuilt in less populous districts, and others have been abolished, the funds being transferred to the support of schools, although it does not seem fair that endowments intended for the assistance of the aged should be transferred to the support of education.

The Trinity Almshouses, which have only lately been saved from destruction, and are illustrated in this book, and the Vintners' Almshouses, founded 1357, erected a little to the east of the Trinity houses in 1676, and rebuilt in 1802, still remain in the Mile End Road, but Bancroft's Almshouses, which were erected in the same road, 1729-35, pursuant to the will of Francis Bancroft, have been abolished, and the charity applied entirely for educational purposes. The buildings were for the accommodation of twenty-four old men of the Drapers' Company, which number was afterwards increased to twenty-eight.

Most of the City companies possess, or have possessed, almshouses, as do also some of the London parishes. A few of the almshouses were situated within the walls of the City, and one of the latest survivals of these was Judd's Almshouses in Great St. Helen's, which building was not abolished until 1891. It was founded by Sir Andrew Judd in 1551 for six poor men of the Skinners' Company, and was rebuilt in 1729.

The more important institutions known as hospitals,

although endowed on a more liberal scale, have much in common with the almshouses, and they have been treated much in the same way; thus the soldier pensioners of Chelsea Hospital remain in possession, while the sailor pensioners at Greenwich have been sent to the right-about. Aske's Hospital at Hoxton, founded by Robert Aske for twenty poor members of the Haberdashers' Company, and Emmanuel Hospital (or Dacre's Almshouses) at Westminster, have been disestablished, while St. Katherine's Hospital in the Regent's Park, Morden College at Blackheath, the French Hospice, and the Charterhouse, remain in the enjoyment of their endowments.

The same inconsistency is seen in respect to the poorer almshouses: Caron's, founded by Sir Noel de Caron at Vauxhall in 1622 for seven poor women of the parish of Lambeth, has been removed to Fentiman Road, Clapham, but Vandun's, founded at Westminster for eight poor women by Cornelius Van Dun, a native of Breda, and soldier under Henry VIII. at the siege of Tournay (died 1577), has been abolished altogether.

Since the growth of railways little general interest has been felt in the great roads out of London, but in the time of stage coaches these roads were thronged with conveyances on their way to the different parts of the country. If we go still farther back into the past we shall find that when London was a walled city, and the inhabitants were under a pretty strict surveillance, those who wished to elude over attention from the authorities lived by preference outside the walls, and in consequence we find that in

Shakespeare's day "the suburbs" had acquired a bad name.

In the fields north of Bishopsgate were placed the Theatre and the Curtain, and around these places of entertainment the actors lived, while a very mixed company sought the same locality. Again on the south side of the Thames we find the theatres of the Bankside, the prisons close by, and a dangerous population all around. Gradually, as London increased and overflowed its borders, the Liberties came under a jurisdiction as strict as that within the walls.

In the days when the mass of well-to-do people lived in the city the chief exit was Aldgate, and along the great eastern road those who had their country houses in Essex were constantly travelling.

We are too apt to speak of the East End with a certain amount of contempt, but most unjustly, for Aldgate, the Whitechapel Road, Mile End Road, and Bow Road, form a noble outlet from the City. The road is wide, and with the horse troughs by the wayside, and the forms near the inns, it tells of a former age, when the inhabitants found it agreeable to spend their summer evenings in the open air, and the wayfarers could rest themselves on a seat, so that the road would form a sort of English equivalent for the Paris boulevards. This was the great country road, and we find that Mile End was a favourite resort of the Londoner who wanted some fresh air and was not inclined to travel so far as John Gilpin to Edmonton.

Mile End has an important history. Its name implies that it was situated one mile from Aldgate, and though the

name is staled in our ears, we shall find a freshness in its sound if we consider its meaning. Wat Tyler assembled his force on Mile End (now Stepney) Green. How important a place it formerly was we can see from the constant references to it by the Elizabethan dramatists.

Those who wanted refreshments could find plenty at Mile End, but some preferred to go as far as Bow to obtain the cream and cakes for which that place was famous. Kemp the actor, in his quaint "Nine Daies Wonder" (1600), gives a vivid picture of the place when describing his famous morris dance from London to Norwich. When he had passed Whitechapel he considered that he had left "fair London" behind him—all before him was country. As one of the open spaces near the town, Mile End was the place chosen for the meetings of the band of archers under a leader styled Prince Arthur. Henry VIII. visited their sports, known by the name of Arthur's Show, and he gave an allowance or charter to the fraternity. According to an account of the society, published in 1583 by Richard Robinson, it was styled "the Famous Order of Knights of Prince Arthur," but Richard Mulcaster, Master of St. Paul's School, in a tract published in 1581, calls the society "The Friendly and Frank Fellowship of Prince Arthur's Knights in and about the City of London." The associates, who were fifty-eight in number, assumed the arms and the names of the Knights of the Round Table. It was of this Company that Justice Shallow boasted that he was one: "He is not his craft's master, he doth not do it right. I remember at Mile-end Green, (when I lay

at Clement's-inn,) I was then Sir Dagonet in Arthur's show,—there was a little quiver fellow, and 'a would manage you his piece thus; and 'a would about, and about, and come you in, and come you in. 'Rah, tah, tah,' would 'a say; 'Bounce' would 'a say; and away again would 'a go, and again would 'a come :—I shall never see such a fellow."—*Second Part of King Henry IV.*, Act III., Sc. 2.

Mile End still continued to be a country place in the seventeenth century, and Pepys tells us that he could get his "creams and cakes" there without going as far as Bow. He mentions two taverns at Mile End to which he resorted, the "Gun" and the "Rose and Crown," but the latter was his favourite house. On September 2, 1667, he took his wife "out to Mile End Green, and there I drank, and so home, having a very fine evening."

After the Fire of London, when the ordinary markets had been burned, others were specially proclaimed, and one of these was at Mile End.

When looking at pictures of old streets and buildings we cannot but ask ourselves what it is that causes our admiration, and why it is that these old buildings please us, even when they are not remarkable for architectural character. If we attempt an answer we shall probably put in the first place the effects of the associations of the past which cling to them, but next comes the feeling of harmony with their surroundings; thus this great eastern road which we have just been considering is full of poor buildings, but somehow they harmonize with one another, and the width of the road gives a character to what may have none in

itself. There is really little which jars against our good taste. Unfortunately this is not the case in respect to the buildings of a more modern date. In some of the best parts of London our taste is continually outraged, and this is largely owing to the constant infractions of the principles of proportion. Vistas are spoilt by huge buildings rising far above those which are round about them. The great evil is that many houses are built too high, and there is no proportion between the height of the houses and the width of the streets.

The Fire of London occurred so long ago that the two centuries, during which the buildings erected soon afterwards have lasted, have been sufficient to allow them to become old in their turn, and most of the views in this volume are of places which do not date farther back than that great event.

This calamity was one of the greatest that has ever overwhelmed a great city, and it was borne by the inhabitants with exemplary fortitude. Every one, from the King and the Duke of York to the humblest citizen, behaved well.

Immediately after the Fire three distinguished men—Christopher Wren, Robert Hooke, and John Evelyn—were ready with plans for the rebuilding of London. Each had its good points, and any one of them, if carried out, would have given us a much improved arrangement of streets. As it turned out not one of the three was adopted, although the rebuilding of the City was placed in the hands of Wren and Hooke, as surveyor and assistant-surveyor respectively. When grieving that an opportunity was lost,

we are too apt to think that the authorities were apathetic, but this was not so. All felt their responsibilities, and set to work to fulfil them. Parliament passed an Act, "An Act for erecting a Judicature for determination of differences touching Houses burned or demolished by reason of the late Fire which happened in London" (18 & 19 Car. II., cap. 7), and that eminent judge, Sir Matthew Hale, was the moving spirit in planning it and in carrying out its provisions when it was passed. The whole business of the rebuilding, which must have been a most difficult affair from the loss of title-deeds, etc., was carried out by the judges in the most admirable manner, and gave general satisfaction.

The next Act which was passed by Parliament, immediately after the one just mentioned, appears to have been well thought out, and it arranged the machinery for a satisfactory rebuilding. The provisions of the Act which was passed were good, and the enactments have had an important influence on the aspect of the town from that day to this.

In the abstract of this important Act here given it will be seen that the enactments were very stringent, and that the height of the houses in the different streets was rigorously defined.

The preamble to 18 & 19 Car. II., cap. 8 (1666), entitled "An Act for rebuilding the Citty of London," runs as follows: "Forasmuch as the Citty being the Imperiall Seate of His Majestyes Kingdomes and renowned for Trade and Commerce throughout the World by reason

of a most dreadfull Fire lately happening therein was for the most part thereof burnt downe and destroyed within the compasse of a few dayes and now lyes buried in its owne ruines for the speedy restauration whereof and for the better regulation uniformity and gracefulness of such new buildings as shall be erected for habitations in order thereunto . . . bee it therefore enacted . . . that the rules and directions hereafter in this act prescribed be duly observed by all persons therein concerned."

The penalties were stringent: houses built otherwise than as prescribed in the Act were to be considered a nuisance, and demolished by order of the Court of Aldermen; and the builder, if he did not abate the nuisance, was to be imprisoned.

It was "enacted that there shall be onely fower sortes of buildings . . . the first and least sort of houses fronting By-lanes; the second sort of houses fronting streets and lanes of note; the third sort of houses fronting high and principall streetes; the fourth and largest sort of mansion houses for citizens or other persons of extraordinary quality not fronting either of the three former wayes, and the roofes of each of the said first three sorts of houses respectively shall be uniforme."

It was "further enacted that the Lord Maior Aldermen and Common Councill . . . shall . . . declare which and how many shall hereafter be accounted to be taken to be By-lanes which and how many shall hereafter be deemed streets or Lanes of note and high and principall streets by act of Common Councill to be passed for that purpose."

These streets were to be marked or staked out, and a penalty of £10 or imprisonment was to be awarded to any one removing the marks or stakes. Poor offenders were to be publicly whipped.

Buildings were to be of brick as "not onely more comely and durable but also more safe against future perils of fire." By the 7th clause of the Act, particulars as to the height of the different classes of houses were detailed—"And be it further enacted that the said houses of the first and least sort of building fronting By-streets or Lanes as aforesaid shall be of two stories high besides cellars and garrets, that the cellars thereof be six foote and a halfe high if the springs of water hinder not, that the first story be nine foote high from the floore to the cieling, and the second story nine foote high from the floore to the cieling, that all walls in front and reere as high as the first story be of the full thicknes of length of two bricks and thence upwards to the garrets of the thicknes of one bricke and a halfe, and that the thicknes of the garret walls on the back part be left to the discretion of the builder soe that the same be not lesse than the length of one bricke, and alsoe that the thicknes of the party walls betwene these houses of this first and lesser sort of building be one bricke and a halfe as the said garrets and that the thicknes of the partie wall in the garrets be of the thicknes of one bricke in length at the least, and that the scantlings of timber and stone to be used about the building thereof be as in the said Table as are sett downe and prescribed."

"Houses of the second sort of buildings fronting streets and lanes of note and the river of Thames" were to be of three storeys high beside cellars and garrets. "Houses of the third sort of buildings fronting the high and principall streets" to consist of four storeys besides cellars and garrets, and the heights of the various storeys were defined. "All houses of the fourth sort of building being mansion houses and of the greatest bigness not fronting upon any of the Streets or Lanes as aforesaid shall beare the same scantlings as in the Table and sett downe for the same, and that the number of stories and the height thereof be left to the discretion of the builder soe as he exceed not foure stories."

By the 11th clause it was enacted "that in the front of all houses to be erected in any such streets as by Act of Common Councill shall be declared to be High Streets Belconies fower foote broad with railes and barrs of iron of equal distance from the ground shall be placed every of which Belconies shall containe in length two parts of the front of the house on which it shall be placed in these parts to be divided, and the remaining vacancy of the front shall be supplied with a penthouse of the breadth of the belcony to be covered with lead slate or tile and to be cieled with plastering underneath and that the water falling as well from the topps of the said houses as from the said belconies and penthouses be conveyed into the channells by party pipes on the sides or fronts of the said houses and that pavements under every of the said belconies and penthouses be made of good and efficient broad flatt stone at the charge of the builder."

The demand for labour during the period of the rebuilding of London must have been very great, and doubtless signs were observed of an endeavour to take advantage of this for the advancement of wages. Therefore this remarkable Building Act provides a remedy for this. By clause 14 two Justices of the Court of King's Bench were appointed to set the prices of bricks, tiles, and lime, and by subsequent clauses "in case of combinations and exactions of workmen and labourers for hire the Lord Mayor &c. may appoint wages, prices of materials &c. The table thereof to bind persons concerned, artificers &c. refusing to sell or work at such prices or leaving work unfinished or giving more wages than allowed can be committed to gaol or fined." Artificers employed from outside were to be made free of the City. Clause 21 contains some interesting information respecting the improvement of streets: "And whereas many auncient streets and passages within the said Citty and Libertyes thereof, and amongst others those which are hereafter mentioned were narrow and incommodious for carriages and passengers and prejudiciall to the trade and health of the inhabitants and are necessary to be enlarged as well for the convenience as ornament of the citty be it enacted by the authoritie aforesaid that the Maior Aldermen and Comons of the said citty for the time being in Comon Councill assembled shall and may and are hereby empowered and required to enlarge all and every the streets and places hereafter mentioned where and in such maner as there shall be cause by and with the approbation of his

Majestie and not otherwise, that is to say, The Streete called Fleete streete from the place where the Gray hound Taverne stood to Ludgate and from thence to St. Pauls Churchyard. The streete leading from the east end of Saint Pauls Church into Cheapeside, The streete and passage at the east end of Cheapeside leading into the Poultry. The streete and passage out of the Poultry leading into the west end of Cornhill, at or neere the place [late] called the Stocks, The streete called Blow Bladder streete leading from the west end of Cheapeside towards Newgate Market and to inlarge the streete and passage from thence towards Newgate Market by laying the ground where the Midle Row in the Shambles there lately stood into the said streete, and in like manner to inlarge the passage from Newgate Market towards Newgate by laying the ground the late fower houses betweene Warwick lane end in Newgate Market and the late Bell lane leading from Paternoster Row to Ludgate streete, and the streete or passage at the end of St. Martin's legrand towards Blow Bladder streete aforesaid and alsoe the Passage from Saint Magnus Church to the Conduit in Gracious Streete, and the north end of Gracious streete and alsoe Thames Streete from the west corner of Saint Magnus Church aforesaid to the Tower Docke and to inlarge Old Fish Streete by laying the Midle Row there into the streete."¹

It was enacted that no more than thirty-nine new parish churches were to be rebuilt, and that the materials of the

¹ "Statutes of the Realm," vol. v. (1819), pp. 603-611.

churches not rebuilt were to be disposed of, and the money raised to be used for the rebuilding of the others.

By a subsequent Act (22 Car. II., c. 11, 1670) entitled "An Additionall Act for rebuilding of the Citty of London, uniteing of Parishes and rebuilding of the Cathedrall and Parochiall Churches within the said city" the number was raised to fifty-one: "It was enacted that the Parishes to be rebuilden within the said City of London in lieu of those which were demolished . . . should not exceede the number of thirty-nine. But forasmuch as upon an exact survey taken of the number of houses to be rebuildd . . . it doth appear that the . . . parish churches to be rebuildd . . . cannot conveniently by union or otherwise be reduced to a lesse number then fifty-one."

By this Act the making of some fresh streets was ordered, and it was enacted that "the Channel of Bridewell Dock from the Thames to Holborn Bridge should be made navigable and that the houses which fronted it were to be of the Second rate."

In reading the various clauses in this Act we must be struck by the fact that while that particular parliament took upon itself the responsibility of saying how London should grow, subsequent parliaments have not followed its lead, and apparently have not considered it consistent with the liberty of the subject to fix the height of houses in our streets. We are therefore naturally led to ask if these enactments were always rigidly carried out, and when they were allowed to fall into desuetude.

It is only of late years that the builders have thought it necessary to raise their houses to great heights, and now the Act of Charles II. has been forgotten.

Should it be necessary to curtail the present licence, an excellent precedent will be found in 18 & 19 Car. II., cap. 8.

No one can doubt that some superintending authority is required, but the great difficulty would be to find the man fitted to hold the position of Art Minister and to wield the authority. He must be a man of eclectic tastes, and not a follower of any one school. Shifting Fashion is an evil in every art, but it is surely greatest in Architecture, because buildings are raised to last for centuries.

That which is required to make London a fine town is a well-considered plan for its gradual rebuilding and replanning. Then, when alterations become necessary, the builders would be told that they must work in harmony with this plan. The careful carrying out of some such scheme as this would have the effect, in the course of time, of creating a fine City.

It is a hopeful sign of the Times that in many parts of London the houses that are daily rebuilt show a considerable improvement in style, particularly in the case of those in which red brick is used, as that gives warmth and colour to our streets. This improvement, however, is by no means universal, and the importance of Proportion, which is the very soul of good Architecture, must be impressed upon our Builders. We do not want Uniformity in our streets, but we do want Harmony.

PLATE I .

CHURCH OF ST. ETHELBURGA, BISHOPSGATE

THE churches of the City of London were originally surrounded by their respective churchyards, but as time went on and space became more valuable, the houses gradually encroached on, and in some cases were built in front of, them: thus St. Peter's, Cornhill, is almost hidden from the street by the shops, and the buildings come very close up to the Church of St. Michael's hard by; but perhaps the case of St. Ethelburga's is the worst of all, and yet it will be seen that the general effect of the front is so quaint that we can scarcely regret its ugliness.

The Church of St. Ethelburga, named after the daughter of Ethelbert, King of Kent, and wife of Edwin, King of Northumbria, must be one of the oldest churches in the City, but the records of those founded in Saxon times have been entirely lost, and Newcourt, in his "*Repertorium Ecclesiasticum*," does not mention any rector before 1366. The advowson was vested in the prioress and nuns of St. Helen's, the convent close by. This devolved to the Crown after the Dissolution of the Monasteries, and was afterwards granted by Queen Elizabeth to the Bishops of London.

The building (which is very small) is probably of the fifteenth century, but it has been so ill-used, that the interior cannot be said to be of much interest. The north side is 54 ft. long and the south side 56 ft. 6 in. The breadth at the east end is 26 ft. 3 in., and at the west end 29 ft. 3 in. The height is 30 ft. 9 in. in the centre of the ceiling.

Formerly there was in the upper part of the tower a curious sculptured figure of stone (2 ft. 6 in. high), representing St. Michael slaying the dragon. Some years ago it was removed to serve as a

guide to the modeller, in the preparation of a silver figure for the beadle's staff, and it appears then to have been lost, as it has not been seen since.

One of the rectors of the parish—Luke Milbourn (died April 15th, 1720)—made a small mark in literary history as an antagonist of Dryden. He set his own translation of Virgil by the side of that by Dryden, and in consequence, was ironically praised by Pope as “the fairest of critics.” He figures in the “Dunciad,” where we read :

Thence to the banks where reverend bards repose
They led him soft; each reverend bard arose;
And Milbourn chief, deputed by the rest
Gave him the cassock, surcingle and vest.



PLATE I

PLATE II

HOUSE IN HOUNDSDITCH

HOUNDSDITCH was the name given to the town ditch which surrounded the city walls; thus in the City Records of 1371 we read of the "Foss of Houndesdicke between Newgate and Ludgate," in 1372 of "Houndesdicke without Aldersgate," and in 1378 of the "Foss of Hundesdyche in Cripplegate." In later times the name was limited to that portion of the ditch between Aldgate and Bishopsgate, which was built over and became the head-quarters of jew brokers and sellers of old clothes. Fletcher, in the "Woman's Prize," styles it "Dogsditch." The dramatists as a rule have little complimentary to say of the inhabitants. Ben Jonson makes Brainworm, in "Every Man in his Humour," speak of a "Houndsditch man": "one of the devil's near kinsmen, a broker." Middleton, in his "Blacke Booke," says: "Let brokers become whole honest men and remove to Heaven out of Houndsditch." Samuel Rowlands, in his "Letting of Humour's Blood in the Head-Vaine," speaks of going into "Houndsditch to the Broker's Roe," and as it was then so it is now.

This picture shows a house in Houndsditch numbered 148, which stands at the corner of Gravel Lane. It appears to have been built early in the seventeenth century, but the walls have been plastered over with cement, and thus the appearance of antiquity has been lost. The houses further up the lane are of the same date, and they appear as they did when they were first built.

In Gravel Lane there stood, till 1844, an old building called "The Spanish Ambassador's House."





PLATE 1

PLATE III

SARACEN'S HEAD, ALDGATE

THIS curious old house, with ornamental pilasters on the front and a wooden gallery on the top, is now divided into two : one is occupied by the Metropole Hotel and Restaurant, and the other by an "anatomical boot-maker." It was formerly a famous hostelry named the Saracen's Head, and not many years ago a painting of the head of a fierce Saracen was to be seen in the front of the house, reminding the onlooker of the portrait of Sir Roger de Coverley, which, with the addition of moustaches and a little aggravation of the features, was turned (at the knight's own expense) into the Saracen's head. This sign was formerly a great favourite, and Selden thus explains its popularity : "When our countrymen came home from fighting with the Saracens, and were beaten by them, they pictured them with huge, big, terrible faces . . . when in truth they were like other men. But this they did to save their own credit" ("Table Talk"). There was a Saracen's Head on Snow Hill, which was famous in coaching days, and another in Friday Street, Cheapside. The houses shown in this view are situated on the south side of Aldgate, and are numbered 6 and 7. On the west side is a turning which retains the name of Saracen's Head Yard, and here the rambling outhouses of the building are seen to advantage.

When this inn was in its prime, and coaches issued from its yard, the walls of London were intact, and the once famous Ald-gate, with its gilded figures of Peace and Charity, stood in all its pride not far off.

This place, being one of the busiest outlets from the city, was well supplied with inns. The Three Nuns' Inn and the Pye Tavern

are mentioned by Defoe in his "History of the Plague." The Three Nuns (which retains the memory of the Minoreesses who lived close by) continued to be a busy coaching inn till coaching was superseded by railways. It has now been rebuilt on a large scale, and is occupied as an hotel. A token was issued from "The Pye without Aldgate" as early as the year 1648. The Bull was another great coaching house.

as mentioned by Defoe in his "History of the Plague." The
Hall, which retains the memory of the Minorsmen who
had formerly resided, is now a busy coaching inn till reaching
the neighbourhood of the city. It has now been rebuilt on a large
scale, and is adapted as an hotel. A taken was issued from "The
Hall, Alington" as early as the year 1641. The Hall was
destroyed after reaching there.





PLATE 3

PLATE IV

BUTCHERS' SHOPS, ALDGATE HIGH STREET

ON the south side of High Street, Aldgate, a little farther east than the subject of the last picture, stands the charming little group of old houses shown in this view. The tiled roofs are specially effective and give a delightful variety to the sky line.

The south side of the High Street is lined with butchers' shops, and is known as Aldgate Market. Here the headquarters of the foreign meat market are still situated. Formerly the imported animals were killed behind the shops, but now that better regulations are enforced, the animals are killed at Deptford and brought here as carcasses. Besides the butchers' market, a vast market of hay and straw is held here, so that often in the early morning the place is almost impassable.





PLATE V

WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET

WHITECHAPEL was originally a chapelry of the parish of Stepney, and for many years was sparsely inhabited. In the seventeenth century it was constituted a separate parish. The High Street was long known for its butchers' shops, which are frequently mentioned by the dramatists. Ralph, in Beaumont and Fletcher's "Knight of the Burning Pestle," exclaims: "March fair, my hearts!—Lieutenant, beat the rear up—Ancient, let your colours fly, but have a great care of the butchers' hooks at Whitechapel; they have been the death of many a fair ancient."

In the "City Remembrancer" the place is described thus: "The great street in Whitechapel is one of the broadest and most public streets in London, and the side where the butchers lived more like a green field than a paved street; toward Whitechapel Church the street was not all paved, but the part that was paved was full of grass" (vol. i. (1769), p. 357).

The four houses shown in this view were situated on the north side of the street and numbered 81-84; the two right hand houses have been pulled down quite recently.

Defoe describes himself in the person of the imaginary recorder of the events of the Great Plague year, as living without Aldgate, and he says that "the richer sort of people, especially the nobility and gentry from the best part of the City thronged out of town with their families and servants in an unusual manner, and this was more particularly seen in Whitechapel; that is to say, the broad street where I lived."





PLATE VI

ROYAL MINT STREET

THIS street, at the back of the Royal Mint, is better known in history and literature as Rosemary Lane, and also as Rag Fair, for it has only received its present name since 1850. It is full of old clothes shops and still deserves its former name. Pope, in the "Dunciad," refers to the place "where wave the tattered ensigns of Rag Fair."

There are several curious old houses in Royal Mint Street, but the little group of houses (Nos. 2, 3, 3½, 4) shown in this view, with their wooden as well as old brick fronts and gables and tiled roofs, are certainly the most picturesque of these.

In the burial register of St. Mary's, Whitechapel, is this entry :
"1646 June 21st Rich. Brandon, a man out of Rosemary Lane."
To this is added the note, "This R. Brandon is supposed to have cut off the head of Charles the First."

There were many rumours as to the executioner of the king, but it seems most probable that the man who did the deed was Richard Brandon, son of the better known Gregory Brandon.¹

Defoe's Colonel Jack frequented Rosemary Lane, and Goldsmith, in one of his essays, speaks of the "pincushion makers" of the place.

¹ See Ellis's "Original Letters," Second Series, vol. iii., p. 342.



PLATE 6

PLATE VII

TRINITY ALMSHOUSES

OF the various almshouses which still remain, those belonging to the Corporation of the Trinity House are by far the most beautiful. They are, in fact, unique, and it is well that they have been saved from destruction. The view from the road of these quaint buildings with the chapel in the centre is very effective, and possesses a quiet charm from the contrast to the busy thoroughfare outside ; but it is necessary to enter and see the ornamental fronts of the houses behind the trees in order to appreciate their real beauty.

It has been supposed that these almshouses are the work of Sir Christopher Wren, but Mr. C. R. Ashbee, in his interesting monograph,¹ suggests the quite possible view that the design was originally that of John Evelyn. He writes : " My own view is that the existing Hospital was designed probably by Evelyn himself, with the assistance, and under the immediate superintendence, of Wren, that indeed it was their joint creation."

Evelyn was interested in the Trinity House, and his father-in-law, Sir Richard Browne, gave some land at Deptford to the Corporation for the erection of almshouses. These are destroyed, but Mr. Ashbee considers them as a prototype of the houses in the Mile End Road.

The land for the almshouses was given by Captain Henry Mudd, one of the wardens of the Trinity House when Samuel Pepys was master, as stated on the front of the building : " This almshouse wherein 28 decayed Masters, & Commanders of Ships

¹ " The Trinity Hospital in Mile End: an Object Lesson in National History," by C. R. Ashbee, M.A., architect. London, 1896.

or y^e Widows of such are maintain'd was built by y^e Corpo. of Trinity House An. 1695. The ground was given by Capⁿ Hen^y Mudd of Ratcliff an Elder Brother whose widow did also contribute."

In the forecourt garden is a statue of Captain Richard Sandes (died 1721), which was erected in 1746. He was a friend of Pepys and Evelyn, and he left land in Lincolnshire for the support of these almshouses. Captain Richard Maples, another benefactor, has a statue in the court at the back of the chapel. These statues are interesting because they show the habits of the men as they lived. A well-known painter stated publicly that when preparing for one of his pictures, although he had been able to find in the Print Room of the British Museum prints depicting the costume of various classes in the reign of William III., he had been unable anywhere to get a representation of a naval officer of that period until he discovered one in a statue in the grounds of the Trinity Almshouses.







PLATE VIII

THE VINE TAVERN, MILE END ROAD

IN this picture we have the representation of one of the most curious "bits" in London. Here is the old wayside inn in the middle of the thoroughfare, and the entrance to the Trinity Almshouses on the right hand. The latter buildings are now old, but the licensed victualler of a former age set up The Vine long before the Corporation of the Trinity House built their almshouses; and when he opened his tavern the "penny royal," which Gerard (1597) describes as growing here in great abundance, was probably to be seen on the common land hereabouts.





PLATE 8

PLATE IX

OLD HOUSES IN THE MILE END ROAD

THE interesting old wooden houses represented in this picture are situated on the north side of the road, and are numbered 171, 173, 175, 177, and 179, the odd numbers being on this side and the even numbers on the south. Not many years ago there were many such houses in the Mile End Road, but gradually they are being weeded out. There are, however, two similar houses a little further east.





T.R. Way
/97

PLATE X

ENTRANCE GATE OF THE CHARTERHOUSE

IN no part of London is there a building of greater interest than the Charterhouse, which was founded in the fourteenth century as a monastery of the Order of the Chartreuse; was for a time after the Dissolution a mansion of several distinguished men; and then, in the beginning of the seventeenth century, was turned into a hospital and school, owing to the munificence of Thomas Sutton.

Two names will ever be associated with the Charterhouse, viz., Sir Walter Manny, the founder of the Priory of Carthusian Monks (House of the Salutation of the Mother of God), and Thomas Sutton, founder of the present institution.

Sutton was connected with the secret history of the Armada, as appears from the following anecdote. Sir Francis Walsingham, hearing that the King of Spain had written a letter to the pope, giving an account of the true design of his mighty preparations, and begging for his blessing upon it, obtained a copy of this letter out of the pope's cabinet by the help of a spy, and thus received the first certain intelligence of the designed Spanish invasion. With this information he prevented the despatch of Philip's ships for a whole year, for he induced the merchants to gather up the chief bills of the Bank of Genoa, and to draw the money out just as the king had ordered bills upon it so as to obtain supplies. The Spaniard was then forced to wait for the arrival of his Plate Fleet. The manager of this delicate transaction, who was an Englishman, appears to have been Thomas Sutton, for the tradition that Sir Thomas Gresham was the man must be erroneous as he died some years before the event.

The Earl of Suffolk sold the Charterhouse to Sutton on May 9, 1611, for £13,000, the latter endowed it as a charity by the name of "the Hospital of King James" in the following June, and he died on December 11, before his work was complete.

The precinct of the Charterhouse is a charmingly quiet spot in the midst of the bustle of London. Charterhouse Square itself, in which the entrance to the hospital is situated, and from which place the present view is taken, is pervaded by an air of old-world life.

When we pass the gate we enter the courtyard with the hall in front of us. The chapel is of great interest and contains a fine monument of Sutton by Nicholas Stone and Bernard Jansen, for which the artists were paid £366 15s., the items of which amount are printed in Knight's "London" (ii. 129).

The oldest portions of the building are contained in Washhouse Court, and the hall and staircase and the governor's room show what the mansion was like when inhabited by great nobles. The houses of the poor brethren are mostly of a later date, but they are all charmingly picturesque, looking as they do upon well-kept gardens. The schoolboys have deserted the place and gone to Godalming, but the boys of Merchant Taylors' School have taken their place.

Charterhouse is a noble institution for the poor brethren—poor gentlemen, old soldiers, "merchants decayed by piracy or shipwreck," household servants of the king and queen, etc. It is sad to know that failing funds have necessitated a reduction in the number of the pensioners. It is to be hoped that the income devoted to the brethren may be increased so that the original number of eighty may again be provided for. May Charterhouse long flourish and never be allowed to decay.



PLATE 10

PLATES XI (FRONTISPIECE) AND XII

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL, better known to the public as the Bluecoat School (from the dress of the boys), stands on ground situated just within the walls of the old City and close by Newgate. It was originally the house of the Grey Friars, and Christ Church was the church of the Friary, burnt in the Fire of London, and rebuilt afterwards by Wren. The open ground in front of the Grammar School is still distinguished as "the Ditch," because the City ditch passed through it. This was arched over about 1553.

The world really owes the school to Edward VI., whose memory is ever held in grateful honour, and whose costume the boys still continue. The young king was so much impressed by a sermon preached before him by Bishop Ridley, in which that prelate "made a fruitful and goodly exhortation to the rich to be merciful unto the poor; and also to move such as were in authority to travail by some charitable way and means to comfort and relieve them," that he sent for Ridley to the palace and talked the matter over with him, they two alone. The bishop after his interview with Edward said he would consult the Lord Mayor, as they had agreed to begin with the London poor. The City authorities entered into the scheme with alacrity, and a comprehensive plan was soon afterwards laid before the king. The poor were divided into three classes: 1. The poor by impotency, consisting principally of orphans, the aged, blind and lame, and lepers; 2. The poor by casualty, comprising "the wounded soldier, the decayed housekeeper," and diseased persons; 3. The thriftless poor, including "the rioter that consumeth all," "the vagabond that will abide in no place," and "the idle person."

Bridewell was prepared for the last mentioned class, the hospitals of St. Bartholomew and St. Thomas for the second (the decayed housekeeper being relieved at home); as to the first—the leper having been comfortably housed in proper places, and the poor having been accommodated in an almonry belonging originally to the Priory of St. Mary Overies, there remained only the destitute children to provide for.¹

In 1552 the Grey Friars house which had fallen into decay was repaired “for the poor fatherless children,”² and on November 23rd the children were taken in “to the number of almost four hundred.”³

Thomas Fanshaw Middleton, Bishop of Calcutta, who was himself “a Blue,” styled Christ’s Hospital “the noblest institution in the world.”

The Bluecoat School has been particularly fortunate in the number of its distinguished scholars, and the list of exhibitors at the two Universities of Oxford and Cambridge is a long and imposing one. In this list will be found the names of Joshua Barnes, afterwards Professor of Greek at the University of Cambridge, James Jurin, M.D., President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Jeremiah Markland, the celebrated Greek scholar, Paul Wright, the editor of Heylin’s “Help to English History,” George Dyer, Edward Thornton, Ambassador to the Portuguese Court, who was, in 1824, created Conde de Casilhas by the King of Portugal, Bishop Middleton, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Thomas Mitchell, translator of Aristophanes, Thomas Barnes, editor of “The Times,” James Scholefield, Regius Professor of Greek at the University of Cambridge. Sir Henry Sumner Maine, K.C.S.I., and Bishop Rowley Hill were “Grecians,” and Charles Lamb, Leigh Hunt, Rev. Thomas Hartwell Horne, and Canon Dale were Deputy Grecians.

William Camden, Edward Campion the Jesuit, Samuel Richardson, Sir Henry Cole, and Sir T. Duffus Hardy must also be mentioned among the many eminent scholars.

¹ Knight’s “London,” vol. ii., p. 330.

² Stow’s “Survey.”

³ Stow’s “Annales,” ed. 1615, p. 608.

Pepys affirms in his Diary that Edward Stillingfleet, Bishop of Worcester, was a Bluecoat boy, but this is not corroborated by his biographer.

The Rev. James Boyer was by no means the greatest of the Masters of Christ's Hospital, but he is certainly the best known, for he figures in the fascinating pages of Coleridge, Lamb, and Leigh Hunt, which are read by every one. Coleridge was laudatory, but Hunt was the reverse. The former wrote: "He early moulded my taste to the preference of Demosthenes to Cicero, of Homer and Theocritus to Virgil, and again, of Virgil to Ovid. . . . I learned from him that poetry, even that of the loftiest and seemingly that of the wildest odes had a logic of its own, as severe as that of science, and more difficult because more subtle, more complex, and dependent upon more fugitive causes." Hunt says he was "a short, stout man, inclining to punchiness with large face and hands, an aquiline nose, long upper lip, and a sharp mouth. His eye was close and cruel. The spectacles he wore threw a balm over it. . . . Jemmy Boyer had a heavy hand. I have known him double his knotty fist at a poor trembling child (the maternal milk hardly dry upon his lips) with a 'Sirrah, do you presume to set your wits at me?'" Coleridge himself says that Boyer's discipline was "ultra Spartan," and when he heard of the master's death he observed: "It was lucky the cherubim who took him to heaven were nothing but faces and wings, or he would infallibly have flogged them by the way."

There were many curious old customs kept up at the school, some of these have died out, but a few still live on. Mr. J. L. Wilson, in his "History of Christ's Hospital," 1838, referring to some of the strange bequests, says: "Peter Symonds by will, dated 4th April, 1586, charges a bequest to the parish of All-hallows, Lombard Street, with the payment of 30s. for distribution among three-score boys of Christ's Hospital, partly in money, and partly in raisins, who are to attend divine service in that church on Good Friday." The custom is still observed, and three-score boys receive a penny each and a bag of raisins, and the beadles who accompany them a shilling each. This will doubtless be immedi-

ately recognized by all Blues as the origin of "singing for a penny, and chanting for a plum."

The old buildings of the Grey-friars sufficed for the purposes of the school for a time only. The plate numbered XI. (frontispiece) shows the entrance from Newgate Street: on the right is the doorway of Christ Church, and in front, the right wing of the interesting building, which was set up at the expense of Sir Robert Clayton, a distinguished benefactor of the school. Under the statue of Edward VI. is this inscription: "Edward the Sixth of famous Memory | King of England was founder of | Christ's Hospital and Sir Rob^t. Clayton | Kn^t and Alderman, Sometime Lord May^r | of the City of London Erected this | Statue of King Edward and built most | part of this fabrick Anno Dom. 1682."

Another benefactor who furthered the plan for the foundation of the Mathematical School was Samuel Pepys, who was treasurer in 1698 and vice-president in 1699. The freedom of the City of London was conferred on him, April, 1699, "in acknowledgment of the great zeal and concern for the interest of Christ's Hospital which [he] hath manifested upon all occasions."

Plate XII. shows one of the most interesting views in London. The sight of the Bluecoat boys at their sports, to be seen daily through the railings, attracts the attention of all passers-by. The hall, shown in this view, is the work of John Shaw, the well-known architect, and was opened on May 29th, 1829. The buildings seen in Plate XI. join on to the extreme right of this view. Mr. Way has taken his drawing from Warwick Lane, on the opposite side of Newgate Street, where Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, the King-maker, kept up great state at his lodging which abutted on the London Wall. At the extreme left of this view is seen the old stone with an effigy in low relief of the legendary Guy, Earl of Warwick, which is dated 1668, but has been replaced upon a comparatively modern house.

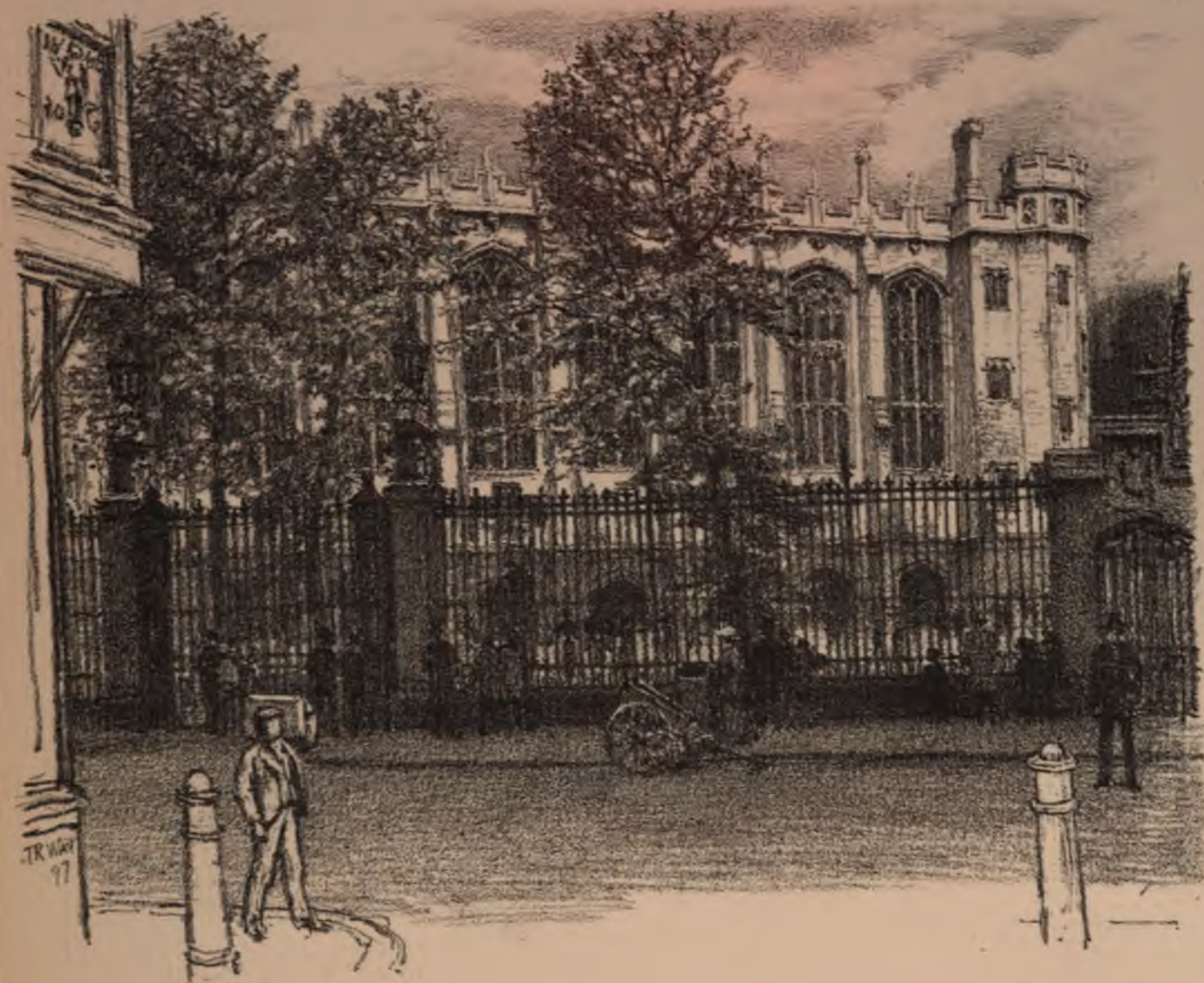


PLATE 12

PLATE XIII

THE GREYCOAT HOSPITAL, WESTMINSTER

THE Greycoat Hospital in Greycoat Place, Tothill Fields, is a charming relic of a former age, and one of the few remains of the many old charitable foundations of Westminster. It has been left pretty much as it was built, except that a long tiled projection stands out from the front on the ground floor, which was added at a later date. This is hidden from view in the street by the outer wall. In the two niches below the centre pediment are figures of a greycoat boy and a greycoat girl.

The Hospital was founded in 1698 by the citizens of Westminster for the maintenance and education of seventy poor boys and forty poor girls of the parish of St. Margaret, Westminster. Subsequently the parish of St. John the Evangelist was included in the benefits of the charity, and the number of children was increased. It was incorporated by charter of Queen Anne in 1706. In 1873 the Hospital was reconstituted as a day school for 300 girls or thereabouts, some little boys also being received. It is intended "to supply a practical education suitable to such children as purpose to continue their scholastic education to the age of fifteen years," or beyond that age in special cases with the sanction of the governors. There are one hundred exhibitions giving partial or total exemption from all school charges. Girls of good character and ability, who have attended elementary schools in the parishes of St. Margaret and St. John for three years, are eligible for election to these scholarships.





PLATE 13

PLATE XIV

THE BLUECOAT SCHOOL, WESTMINSTER

THIS local Bluecoat School, with its front in Caxton Street and its back in James Street, stands on a wedge-shaped plot of ground. The school was founded in 1688, and the present building, which is a beautiful architectural example of the school of Wren, was erected in 1709. It has even been attributed to the great architect himself. The building to the right, the edge of the wall of which only is seen in the view, is the Bluecoat House, covered with beautiful creepers. This is a free day school where 120 boys are educated and the upper classes clothed as well. The income, which is not large, is obtained from charitable contributions and invested funds and rents. Sir Walter Besant, in describing the buildings in his work on "Westminster," writes in a strain of satire, which is certainly justifiable in view of the wholesale destruction of interesting old charities—"They consist of a charming red-brick hall with the figure of a scholar over the porch; a little garden full of greenery is at the back; at one side is the master's residence, a two storied house covered all over with a curtain of Virginia creeper; another little garden, full of such flowers as will grow in the London air, is behind this house. But master and boys, when they look around, begin to tremble, for their place is old, it is beautiful, it adorns the street, it is sacred to the memory of 200 years of Boy—thirty generations of Boy; it is still most useful—therefore one feels certain that it is doomed; it must soon go, to make room for residential flats and mansions, fifteen stories high; it must, we have no doubt, follow the other monuments of the Past, and be absorbed into Consolidated Schools."

It may be added, however, that the school has had a reprieve, and will be allowed to stand for the present.





J.R. Way. 97

PLATE XV

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

ST. PETER'S COLLEGE, Westminster, described as "a publique schoole for Grammar, Rethoricke, Poetrie and for Latin and Greek languages," was founded by Queen Elizabeth in 1560, but a school connected with the collegiate church was kept in the west cloister of the Abbey as early as the fourteenth century.

Westminster school occupies some of the most interesting remains of the old Abbey buildings. The College hall, originally the abbot's refectory, was built by Abbot Litlington in the reign of Edward III. This view of Little Dean's Yard is framed by the entrance arch leading out of Dean's Yard. The ornamental doorway in the middle of the picture has been popularly attributed to Inigo Jones, but without any authority. It is the work, not of the seventeenth, but of the eighteenth century, and owes its existence to the architect Earl of Burlington.

The list of masters of Westminster School contains some noted names as those of Alexander Nowell, Nicholas Udall, and William Camden, but the most famous name is that of Richard Busby.

Westminster boys were long notorious for their rough behaviour. They tossed the notorious publisher Edmund Curll in a blanket in 1716, and nearly forty years later Horace Walpole did not dare to visit the tomb of his mother in the Abbey for fear of them: "I literally had not courage to venture alone among the Westminster boys at the Abbey; they are as formidable to me as the ship carpenters at Portsmouth" (Letter to Bentley, July 9, 1754).

Among these scholars were many who became eminent in after years. Richard Hakluyt, Ben Jonson, George Herbert, Sir Harry Vane, Cowley, Dryden, Prior, Wren, Locke, Cowper, Warren Hastings, Gibbon, Lord Mansfield, Southey, Lord Raglan, and a host of others were educated at Westminster School.





PLATE 15

PLATE XVI

FIELD COURT, GRAY'S INN

STOW describes Gray's Inn as "a goodly house, by whom built or first begun I have not yet learned, but seemeth to be since Edward III.'s time," and he does not appear to have been far wrong. Pearce, in his "History of the Inns of Court," quotes from an Harleian manuscript to the effect that William Skepworth was the first reader at Gray's Inn, and he was Justice of the Common Pleas in the reign of Edward III. The name is derived from the Lords Gray of Wilton, to whom the property belonged.

This view of Field Court shows a quaint corner of Gray's Inn, and on the left the entrance to the famed Gray's Inn Walks. On

the iron gates is the inscription ^{T.} W. I. G. but these gardens were

¹⁷²³ famous long before that date. Mr. Douthwaite, in his "History of Gray's Inn" (1886), quotes from the records of the society an account of the trees that existed in the year 1583, or seven years after Francis Bacon entered the Inn, and three years before he became a Bencher. The gardens of Gray's Inn are intimately associated with Bacon, who had much to do with the planting of the trees and the setting out of the walks in 1597. In that year it was ordered "that the summe of £7 15s. 4d., due to Mr. Bacon for planting of trees in the walkes, be paid next term." In the following year another order was made for a further "supply of more yonge elme trees in the places of such as are decayed, and that a new Rayle and quicksett hedge be sett uppon the upper long walke at the good discretion of Mr. Bacon and Mr. Wilbraham, soe that the charges thereof doe not exceed the sum of seventy pounds." On the 29th of April, 1600, it was ordered that "there

shall bee payed and allowed unto Mr. Bacon for money disbursed about the garnishing of the walkes, £60 6s. 8d."

A summer house was erected by Bacon in 1609 in memory of his friend Jeremiah Bettenham, upon which he placed a Latin inscription. This stood until the middle of the eighteenth century, when it was cleared away.

Mr. Spedding records that Raleigh, just before his last disastrous voyage to the New World, had a long conversation with Bacon in these gardens. Tradition reports that Bacon planted a "catalpa tree," which is still preserved. Mr. Douthwaite adds that "it is one of the oldest in England, and may well have been brought from its native soil by Raleigh."

Gray's Inn Walks were the resort of the fashionable world in the seventeenth century. James Howell, writing from Venice to Richard Altham, a resident of Gray's Inn, in 1621, says: "I hold your walks to be the pleasantest place about London, and that you have there the choicest society." Pepys often went to see the ladies in these walks, and on one occasion took his wife to observe the fashions, as she was "making some clothes."

Sir Roger de Coverley was a frequenter of the terrace, and later in date Charles Lamb was a true lover of its beauties. He was indignant at the erection of Verulam Buildings, which he called "accursed," because they encroached upon the gardens, "cutting out delicate crinkles, and shouldering away one or two of the stately alcoves of the terrace." The fine trees in the historical gardens of Gray's Inn attract a large number of birds, and they are famous for their rookery.



7.10.77

PLATE XVII

OLD SQUARE, LINCOLN'S INN

INSIDE the old gateway of Lincoln's Inn, in Chancery Lane, are Old Buildings, and they are shut in by the Old Hall. On the other side are the picturesque and antique houses shown in this view, which form a portion of Old Square. The railings in the foreground mark the position of the gardens in front of the New Hall. Round the corner to the west is New Square.

The hall seen in this view was the theatre of the ancient feasts and revels, and served as the hall of the society until the New Hall was opened in 1845. It was then divided and used for the Courts of Chancery. It is now utilized as an examination hall. Here occurred a curious scene when the notorious pamphleteer, John Asgill, barrister of Lincoln's Inn, called together the creditors of Dr. Barebone, "the famous projector," and builder of New Square. Barebone appointed Asgill his executor, and assigned as his reason that his creditors might never be paid. After reading the will, Asgill said, "Gentlemen, you have heard the Doctor's testament: I assure you I will religiously attend to the wishes of the deceased."



PLATE 17

The dinners in hall with the quaint old customs were kept up until a few years ago, but they have now ceased. The hall is let for meetings, and it is now occupied by the Art Workers' Guild, which removed from Barnard's Inn when this was turned into the Mercers' School.

There was formerly some stained glass in the windows of the hall, consisting of the arms of former principals and rulers, and one piece dated back to the fourteenth century, but this has unfortunately been taken out, and all the windows are now filled with plain glass.

Although the society performs no functions it still exists, and annually the Inner Temple elects a reader, and the steward of Clifford's Inn is asked if it will be convenient for the reader to enter into his office. The stereotyped reply, however, is that it will not be convenient as there are no students.

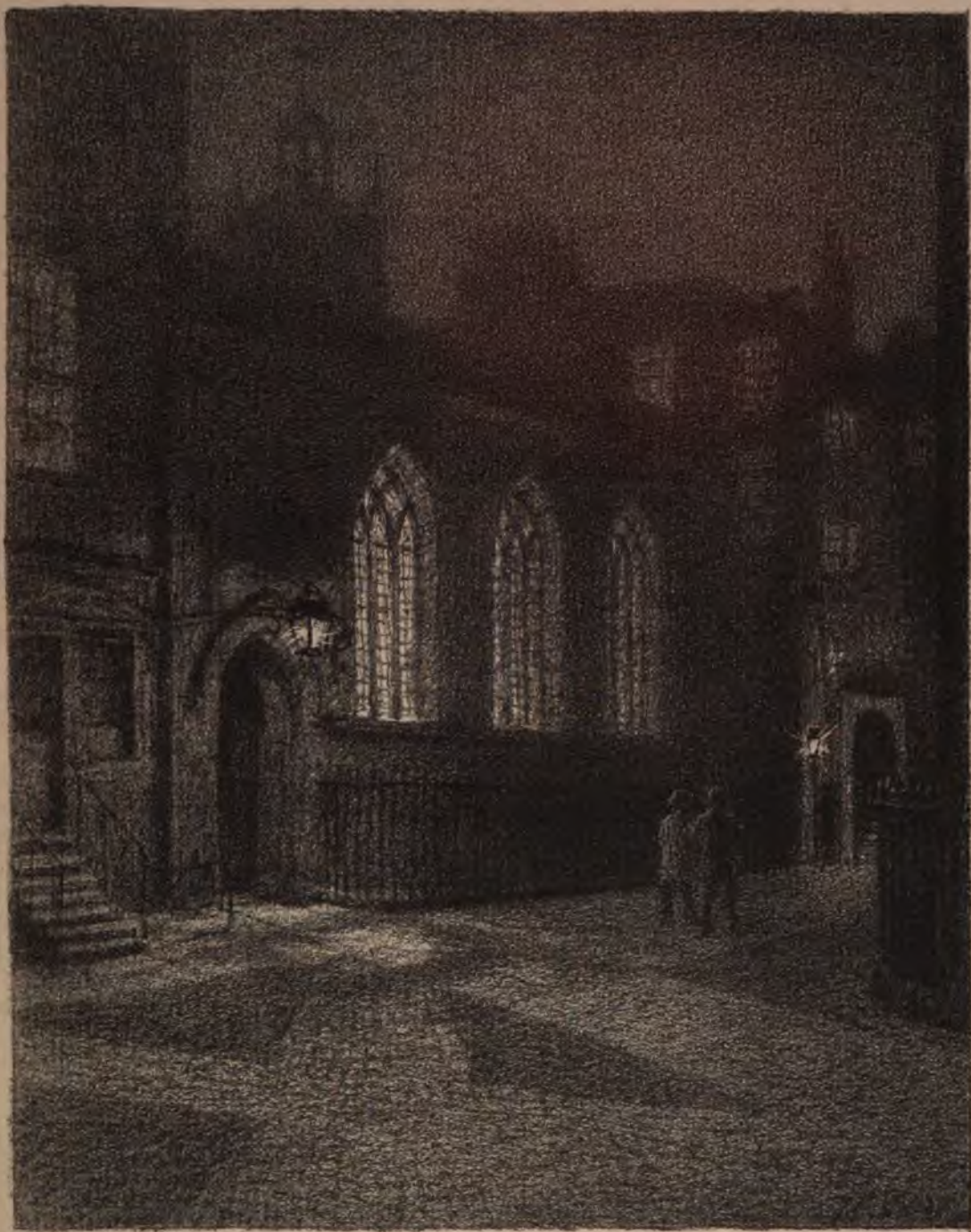


PLATE 18

and Sir Roger Wilbraham possessed it in 1604. During the seventeenth, eighteenth, and much of the nineteenth centuries, St. John's Gate continually changed its occupant. In 1704 it was known as Hogarth's Coffee House, and afterwards was tenanted by Edward Cave, who published here the first number of the "Gentleman's Magazine" in 1731. From that time the view of the gate has been spread abroad on the covers of its various numbers. Johnson is intimately associated with St. John's Gate, which he said he beheld "with reverence." Garrick also was a frequenter of the place, where he acted the principal character in Fielding's farce of the "Mock Doctor," when Cave's journeymen read the other parts. In 1781, just fifty years after its establishment, the magazine entirely lost all connection with its native spot.

The Jerusalem Tavern stands by the side of the gate, and for many years the latter was attached to the tavern, and the large room used for meetings. The Urban Club met there for some years.

Now the resuscitated Order of St. John of Jerusalem has taken possession of St. John's Gate, and holds its chapters there. The building has been restored, and is now in good condition. It serves also as the central office of the St. John's Ambulance Association.



PLATE 19

PLATE XX

GREAT ORMOND STREET

GREAT ORMOND STREET was once one of the handsomest streets in London. Ralph, writing in 1734, says "that side of it next the fields is beyond question one of the most charming situations about town"; but time has done its work, and allowed the houses to decay. Several of these had formerly handsome iron railings, and were noble examples of the mansions which were popular in the eighteenth century. Some of the best of the old houses still existing are shown in this drawing, and the house with the rows of five windows on the first and second floors (No. 44), next to the projecting house occupied by the Working Men's College, has some fine ironwork still. Lord Chancellor Thurlow lived in the latter house (now No. 46) when the Great Seal was stolen from him on March 24th, 1784.

Powis House, formerly at the north-west end of the street, was built in the latter part of the reign of William III. by William Herbert, 1st Marquis of Powis, who was outlawed for his adherence to James II. It was burnt down in 1713, when in the occupation of the French ambassador, and rebuilt at the expense of Louis XIV. Philip, Earl of Hardwicke, lived here during the time he was Lord Chancellor, and Powis House was taken down at the end of the eighteenth century, when Powis Place was built on its site.

The handsome new buildings of that noble institution, the Hospital for Sick Children, to the east of Powis Place, stands on the site of the house where lived for some years Dr. Richard Mead, the great physician and collector (d. 1754). Behind the house there was a good garden, with a museum at the end of it. On the

opposite side of Powis Place was the house of Zachary Macaulay, which has been rebuilt, and forms the east wing of the Homœopathic Hospital. Macaulay's house was numbered 50, but lately all the houses have been renumbered, with the even numbers on the north side and the uneven numbers on the south side, to the complete confusion of historical associations.

The Macaulay family settled in Ormond Street in 1823, and remained there till 1831. Lady Trevelyan said that "these were to me years of intense happiness." In August, 1857, Lord Macaulay noted in his diary: "Passing through Great Ormond Street I saw a bill upon No. 50. I knocked, was let in, and went over the house with a strange mixture of feelings. It is more than twenty-six years since I was in it. The dining-room, and the adjoining room, in which I once slept, are scarcely changed; the same colouring on the wall but more dingy. My father's study much the same; the drawing-rooms too, except the papering. My bedroom just what it was. My mother's bedroom. I had never been in it since her death. I went away sad."

Sir George Trevelyan says, in his "Life of Macaulay," that his mother, when dying, had herself driven to the old house, "as the last drive she ever took, and sat silent in her carriage for many minutes with her eyes fixed upon those well-known walls."

...and the

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PLATE 20

PLATE XXI

BUCKINGHAM STREET

WE are here on the site of the house and gardens which stood by the River Thames to the west of Durham House, now replaced by the Adelphi. It obtained its name of York House from Heath, Archbishop of York, and Lord Chancellor in Queen Mary's reign, who received it in exchange for Suffolk House in Southwark, which the Queen presented to the See of York, "in recompense of Yorke House [Whitehall] near to Westminster, which King Henry her father had taken from Cardinal Wolsey and from the See of York."

Heath seems to have been the only archbishop who lived here, and the house was let to successive Lords Keeper and Lords Chancellor. Sir Nicholas Bacon lived and died here. He was succeeded by Puckering, Egerton, and his son Francis Bacon, Viscount St. Albans, who was born in the house. The latter was living here when, on May 1st, 1621, the Great Seal was "fetched from" him. He was ordered to return to Gorhambury, and by some arrangement he let his house to the 1st Duke of Buckingham, but whatever the arrangement, the Duke does not appear to have kept it, and Bacon filed a bill in chancery against him. In 1624 Buckingham obtained the house from the king and pulled it down, building a new one in its place, which he used for state occasions only, living at Wallingford House (now the Admiralty), where the 2nd Duke was born.

During the Commonwealth Cromwell gave the house to Lord Fairfax, and by that means it came back into the possession of the 2nd Duke, who married his daughter. The Duke lived in it for a time, but in January, 1672, he sold the whole place to contractors

for £30,000. Streets were planned out for the estate, but for some years the buildings were not proceeded with. At first the district was named York Buildings, and this name was used by Pepys, whose house was on the west side of Buckingham Street. In due course, however, the streets were named in the order of the Duke's names and title—as George Street, Villiers Street, Duke Street, Of Alley, and Buckingham Street. George Street has been renamed York Buildings, but George Court, which connects it with the Strand, still retains its name.

There is considerable variety in the houses of Buckingham Street: some have been rebuilt, but several are excellent examples of eighteenth century houses, with handsome canopies over the doors; the two houses on the east side (Nos. 17 and 18), shown in the drawing, are the handsomest looking houses in the street. No. 17 has been repointed lately.

The house at the foot of the street, on the west side (No. 14), was the house of Samuel Pepys when he was Secretary of the Admiralty, but it was rebuilt in the eighteenth century. Etty and Stanfield, the distinguished painters, lived at this house in later years.

A memorial tablet has been set up by the Society of Arts on the house at the opposite side of the street (No. 15), to record the fact that Peter the Great lived there during his residence in England.

At the end of the street is seen the beautiful watergate attributed to Inigo Jones, which was built by the 1st Duke of Buckingham as the entrance from the Thames to his new palace. It is now too low in position to be effective, but it makes a handsome ornament to the Embankment Gardens, and lately it has been cared for, so that there is now no fear of its falling to pieces. There has been much dispute over the authorship of this gate, and Nicholas Stone claimed it as his own.



PLATE 21

PLATE XXII

HOLBORN AND LEATHER LANE

BEFORE the alterations made in 1869, by which Holborn Hill was levelled and the Viaduct was built over the valley, the street was filled with inns. Most of these were swept away, but the Old Bell and some others remained. Now Wood's Hotel in Furnival's Inn has been pulled down, and the Old Bell, which was illustrated in the "Reliques of Old London," is now closed, and the house is covered with posters.

Ridler's Hotel alone appears to succeed, and the houses in this picture are coming down for an enlargement of this hotel. The turning to the right in the picture is Leather Lane, which runs from Holborn to Clerkenwell Road. The neighbourhood long ago obtained an unfavourable reputation, and there are still some old houses which remind us of this, but the situation is too valuable to be given over as the dwelling-place of thieves and beggars, and lately several large red brick buildings have been erected for the occupation of extensive workshops.





PLATE XXIII

STRAND LANE

THIS delightfully old-fashioned spot is one that we should scarcely expect to find in the midst of the busiest thoroughfare in London, and yet there it is, and the opening in the middle of the picture leads into the Strand. The blank wall on the left hand of the picture is the boundary of King's College.

The lane used to lead down to a landing-place on the Thames, called Strand Bridge, which is alluded to in the "Spectator" (No. 454) as a place where fruit was landed for Covent Garden Market; but the lane is now no longer a thoroughfare. The curiosity of the place is the old Roman bath which still exists. It is about 13 ft. long, 6 ft. broad, and 4 ft. 6 in. deep, and is said to be fed from the Holy-well on the opposite side of the Strand.

We naturally ask ourselves why there is a Roman bath here, and the question is not an easy one to answer. There is no reason to suppose that the Strand was a Roman road, and probably this bath was attached to some isolated Roman villa on the river's bank, the record of which has been entirely lost.





PLATE 23

PLATE XXIV

OLD MANOR HOUSE, BERMONDSEY

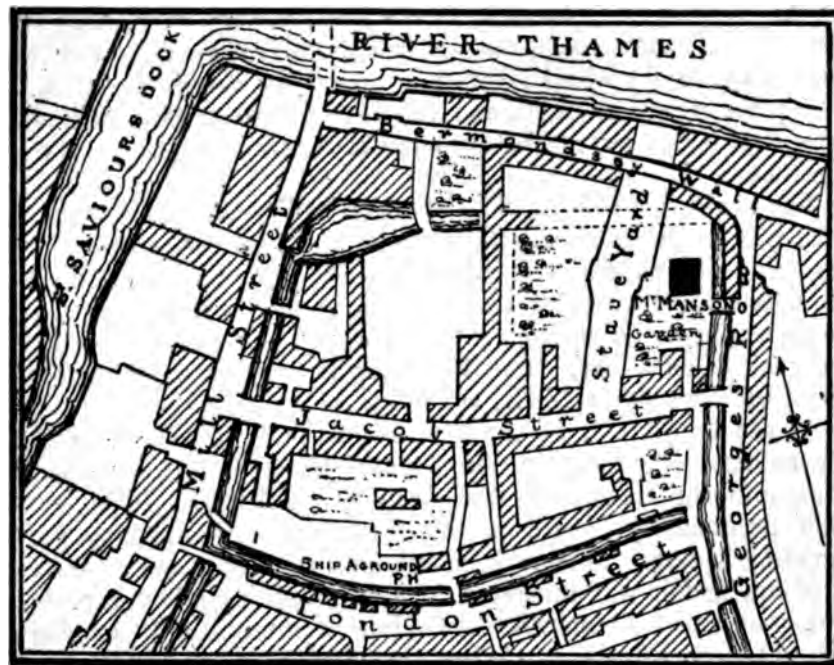
THE riverside parish of Bermondsey is known to all travellers on the South Eastern Railway, as they near London Bridge, by the pungent smell of the tanneries which abound in this district. The present name is supposed to be a slight modification of Beormund's ey, or the island of a Saxon proprietor named Beormund. The place is still swampy, and there can be no doubt that in its early state it was surrounded by water courses running down to the Thames.

The institution which gave distinction to Bermondsey in the old time was the great abbey of St. Saviour. This was founded by Aylwin Child, citizen of London, in 1082, as a priory attached to the Cluniac Monastery of La Charité in Normandy. In 1371 this house ceased to be an alien priory, and in 1390 was advanced to the rank of an abbey. The sixty-fourth prior was made the first abbot by Pope Boniface IX. at the suit of Richard II.

At the Dissolution of the Monasteries in Henry VIII.'s reign the monastery and manor were granted to Sir Robert Southwell, Master of the Rolls, who sold them to Sir Thomas Pope, who built Bermondsey House on the ground now occupied by Bermondsey Square. This must have been a handsome and extensive building, and it was inhabited by several distinguished persons: among others by Thomas Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex, Lord Chamberlain to Queen Elizabeth. When this dignitary was sick, on May 27th, 1594, the queen went to visit him at Bermondsey House.

The curious and interesting old building shown in this plate has been popularly known as the Manor House since Sir Thomas Pope's house has been demolished. The canopy over the door bears the

date 1700. It is of considerable size, and is said to contain three staircases and twenty rooms. Its surroundings are now sordid enough, but the house once had an extensive garden, the site of which is marked on the plan here given, which has been taken from one in Wilkinson's "Londina Illustrata." The house is shown as having once belonged to Mr. Manson, and the site of his garden is marked. It is situated just below Bermondsey Wall and a little north of Jacob Street, which gives its name to the locality made famous by Dickens in "Oliver Twist" as "Jacob's Island," the dismal scene of Bill Sykes's death.





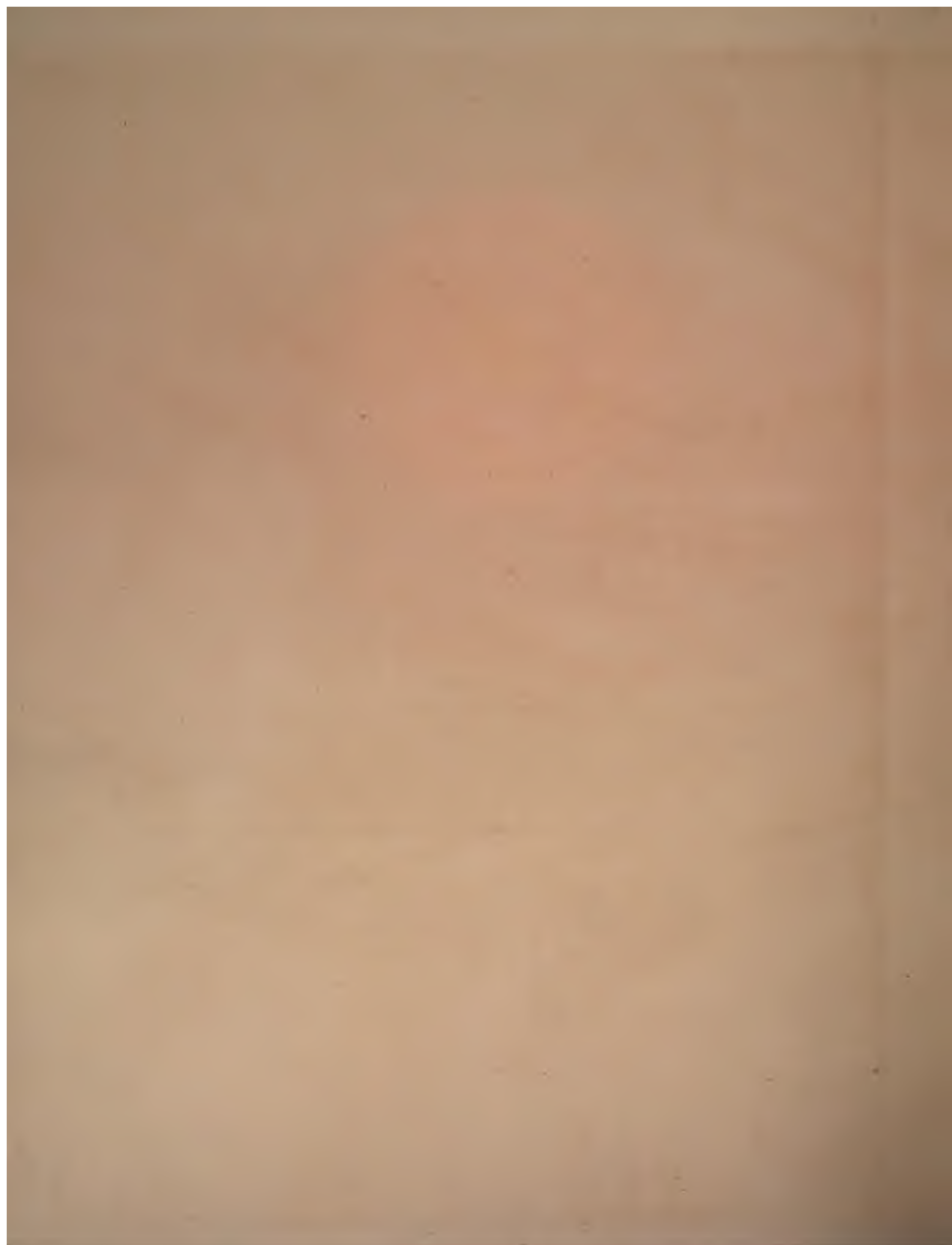



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